

Andover Central School Cell Phone Plan

New Protocol:

Starting with the 2023-24 school year, Andover Central School will no longer allow students to have cell phones or any smart devices with the ability to send or receive text messages on their persons for the duration of the school day. Students may use headphones and earbuds in class with teacher permission if required for classwork. If any of these items are brought to school, they must be turned off and placed in a locker or turned in to the Main Office for safekeeping before the first period of the school day. Students with medical needs for a device will not be affected but will be held to the same standard of use during operating hours. Students will not be allowed to keep their electronics in their backpacks; if we find this a problem, bags will no longer be allowed to be carried from class to class.

By removing cell phones from the school day, ACS is committing to a higher level of learning and engagement for all students, which aligns with our commitment to Academics + Character = Success. By implementing this plan, Andover prioritizes all our students and staff's safety and well-being while promoting the best learning environment possible.

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Frequently Asked Questions

1. What About Emergencies?

With safety and security as our top priority, if your child experiences an immediate emergency, we have a network of phones in each classroom and in every office. In the event of a building crisis such as an active shooter, the school does have a Safety Plan to connect with our community. Also, security and emergency officials have underlined the importance of following existing safety protocols that include keeping phone lines open and accessible.

2. What About My Child's Mental Health?

At ACS we understand the importance of caring for every student. We have a dedicated staff of teachers, aides, the school counselor, social worker, and psychologist who are professionally trained to assist with our students' needs.

3. Why Can't They Use Them During Lunch?

As part of this plan, we reviewed disciplinary situations and experiences over the last couple of years and found that during unstructured time during lunch, students were sending unwanted pictures, snaps, and videos, and cyberbullying was occurring. Cell phones were not returned to bags or lockers and once again appeared in classrooms and study halls. Issues with cell phones were becoming a daily problem.